

193-211 A.D.

SEPTIMUS SEVERUS

He reduced the Senate to a
nomity.

He sent an expedition to
Britain against the Scots and
while he was there, he died.

193-211

1912 Dates J-BK

Septimius Severus was emperor. He was proclaimed by Illyrian legions, recognized by the Senate and maintained himself against CLODIUS ALBINUS in Gaul and PESCENNIUS NIGER in the East, the other pretenders.

Through the jurist PAPINIANUS, improvements were made in the

administration of justice.

these were successful campaigns
in mesopotamia

193-211

DECEMBER

Septimus Severus emperor

Jan. 1, 193

A few hours after the assassination of COMMODUS, the senate met & chose as emperor one of its most respected members. Pertinax accepted with reluctance a dignity so exalted that any fall from it ~~must~~ be fatal.

On Mar 28, 300 soldiers forced their way into the palace, struck him down, and carried his head

upon a spear to their camp. The people
and the Senate mourned & laid.

9 Apr 193

Accession to the throne of Severus

Apr
193

In Britain, the governor, Decurion
CLODIUS ALBINUS with 3 legions
and numerous auxiliary
contingents declared himself
in April

9 Apr 193

Severus had himself proclaimed emperor by the legion stationed at his headquarters at CARNUNTUM, near modern Vienna. He at once prepared to march on Rome, but first reached an agreement with CLAUDIUS ALBINUS (of Britain legions) offering him the title 'Caesar' to stay his opponent

April 193

Proclaimed emperor by the Danube
legions Severus marched on Rome.
Opposition crumbled before him
and when he arrived outside the
city the senate bowed to the inevitable
and granted him imperial powers.

May 193

Severus force marched south towards Rome. Didius Julianus did what he could to oppose him. He set the praetorian guard to dig fortifications around Rome (there were no defences), but they were unused to the work and did everything they could to avoid it. Assassins were dispatched to kill SEVERUS, but he was closely guarded & they were unable to penetrate his security.

1 June 193

The senate passed a motion sentencing JULIANUS to death, naming Severus emperor, and bestowing divine honors on Pertinax the officer sent to carry out the sentence found Julianus 'alone & deserted by everyone' and killed him 'amid a shameful scene of tears'. His taste of power had lasted 66 days. His body was handed over to his wife and daughter who

buried it in his great-grandfather's tomb,
by the 5th milestone on the VIA LABICA.

1 June 193

Didius Julianus was killed on 1 June 193;
nine days later Severus and his army
entered the city in triumph.

However, before he did, he wanted to
settle Pertinax's death with the Praetorians.

He summoned the praetorians to parade
outside the city leaving behind their
weapons as they would on a ceremonial
occasion. His own men then surrounded

them, the innocents of the guard were dismissed,
and warned, on pain of death, not to come
within 100 miles of Rome. Their place
was taken by men loyal to Severus

1 June 193

Sidius Julius was murdered
in the Palatine.

June 193

Tiberius was deposed and put
to death.

Portius was deified
Septimus Severus became
emperor.

193

Once ~~Severus~~^{Septimus} Severus had established his position at Rome, his next task was to deal with Pescennius NIGER, gov. of Syria.

Niger gathered his forces and fortified the passes across the Taurus mountains which protected the northern flank of Syria and his capital at Antioch. He also sent an army westward to seize Byzantium, the city which

controlled the narrow crossing of the Bosphorus